Linking exports with generation of jobs

15. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had evolved a policy of linking increasing exports with generation of jobs opportunities;

(b) if so, the main features and *modus operandi* thereof; and

(c) the estimated number of persons employed in connection with various operations related to exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The objective of the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 has been *inter alia* to act as an effective instrument of economic growth by giving a thrust to employment generation. This is proposed to be achieved by identifying and nurturing special focus areas which would generate additional employment opportunities, particularly in semi urban and rural areas.

(c) A recent study "Towards an Employment Oriented Export Strategy: Some Preliminary Explorations" carried out by Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries (RIS) commissioned by the Department of Commerce, found that in 2004-05 around 16 Million employment was estimated to have been generated by the export sector, of which 9 Million was direct employment and 7 Million wad indirect employment through backward linkages and related sectors. The total incremental direct employment during the year was 1.48 Million.

Import of edible oil

†16. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:-
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing huge quantity of edible oils;

(b) if so, the details of the import made during each of the last three years and there-after and the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to the import of huge quantity of edible oils, the farmers are forced to sell the oilseeds even below the minimum support price; and

(d) if so, the precautionary steps being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) All types of edible oil (Chapter 15 of ITC (HS) except of animal origin and Coconut (Copra) Oil and its fractions are importable without licence subject to payment of duty. The import of edible oils of animal origin are prohibited. The details of import of edible oil made during each of the last three years and thereafter (latest available) are as under:

Quantity in Tonnes Value in Rs. Lakhs

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		APR-05-AUG-05(Provisional)	
Item	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Edible oil	4365033	877964	5290296 349538.8	1168324	4674702	1090348	1685493	

(c) and (d) In order to ensure that the farmers of the country are not put to any hardship, the Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items including edible oils.

Import duties on a number of items including edible oils have been increased in the last 5 years wherever necessary. Further, the Government is also implementing a number of development programmes to increase the competitiveness of the Indian farmer. These include introduction of improved farming technology, improved availability of inputs including water, credit and fertilizer and price support through the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

Export of services

17. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the growth registered in the export of services during each of the last three years, sector-wise;

(b) whether India is still lagging behind China, Korea and other countries in export of services; and